

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 05617 211101Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

AID-05 OMB-01 L-03 /045 W

-----114538 211228Z /15

R 211005Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 5617

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE TEMPORARY ASYLUM CENTER FOR REFUGEES

1. UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR CONTACTED AMBASSADOR
DECEMBER 21 TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON SAMPATKUMAR'S DISCUSSIONS
WITH GOS OVER SINGAPORE OFFER OF ISLAND FOR REFUGEE TRANSIT CAMP.

2. SAMPATKUMAR SAID HE HAD MET DECEMBER 20 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
POLITICAL DIVISION DIRECTOR (AND ACTING PERMSEC) TAN BOON
SENG AFTER HOME MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD REFERRED HIM TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY. (INDICATIVE OF SOME BUREAUCRATIC BUCK-PASSING, TAN
EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SAMPATKUMAR HAD COME TO HIM.) ACCORDING
TO SAMPATKUMAR, TAN HAAD STRESSED THAT GOS REMAINED CONCERNED
ABOUT TWO MAIN QUESTIONS:

AVAILABLE OF FUNDS TO FINANCE THE CAMP AND UNHCR ASSURANCES THAT
ALL REFUGEES WOULD BE MOVED ON FROM SINGAPORE. IN RESPONSE TO
LATTER POINT, SAMPATKUMAR SAID HE COULD ONLY TELL TAN THAT SO
FAR UNHCR HAD ALWAYS DONE SO. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO TAN A JOINT
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MEETING WITH BOTH FOREIGN AND HOME MINISTRIES TO DISCUSS
THE PROJECT FURTHER, WHICH TAN THOUGHT A GOOD IDEA, BUT NOTED
WOULD TAKE "SOME TIME" TO ARRANGE.

3. COMMENT: APPEARS TO US THAT SAMPATKUMAR AND SINGAPOREANS ARE
CAUGHT UP IN BUREAUCRATIC ROUND-ROBIN, WITH GOS MOVING AT SNAIL'S
PACE ON TRANSIT CAMP PLANNING WHILE AWAITING CONCRETE ASSURANCES

FROM UNHCR RE FINANCING AND GUARANTEED ONWARD MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES
WHICH SAMPATKUMAR SEEMS UNABLE TO PROVIDE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT BEST WAY TO BREAK THIS IMPASSE WOULD BE FOR UNHCR GENEVA
TO SEND TO SINGAPORE FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH GOS A SENIOR OFFICIAL
WITH SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY AND EXPERTISE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC,
DETAILED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS SINGAPOREANS ARE ASKING.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771231/aaaaazts.tel
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SREF, SN, UNHCR
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